

FORT MILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

120 E. Elliott Street
Fort Mill, South Carolina 29715

GRADES PK-12

ENROLLMENT 5,857 Students

SUPERINTENDENT Mr. TEC Dowling 803-548-2527

BOARD CHAIR Chantay F. Boulter 803-547-2034

FISCAL AUTHORITY District Board/Referendum

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

2003

ABSOLUTE RATING:

EXCELLENT

Absolute Ratings of Districts with Students like Ours

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	Unsatisfactory
0	0	0	0	0

IMPROVEMENT RATING:

GOOD

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS:

N/A

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

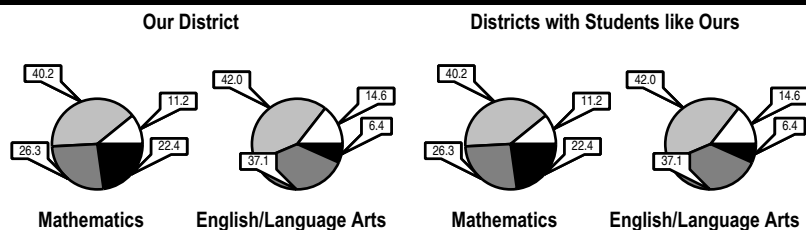
FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WEBSITES AT:

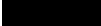



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PERFORMANCE TRENDS OVER 4-YEAR PERIOD

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
2001	Excellent	Average	N/A
2002	Excellent	Excellent	N/A
2003	Excellent	Good	N/A
2004			

PALMETTO ACHIEVEMENT CHALLENGE TESTS (PACT) RESULTS**Definition of Critical Terms**

	Advanced	Very high score; very well prepared to work at next grade level; exceeded expectations
	Proficient	Well prepared to work at next grade level; met expectations
	Basic	Met standards; minimally prepared, can go to next grade level
	Below Basic	Did not meet standards; must have an academic assistance plan; the local board policy determines progress to the next grade level

NOTE: Science and social studies are to be included in the 2005 school report card.

TENTH GRADE PASSAGE OF ONE OR MORE SUBTESTS OF THE EXIT EXAM

	Our District			Districts with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2001	2002	2003	2001	2002	2003
Passed all 3 subtests	80.9	77.9	78.1	80.9	77.9	78.1
Passed 2 subtests	12.0	13.5	11.8	12.0	13.5	11.8
Passed 1 subtest	5.1	5.9	6.8	5.1	5.9	6.8
Passed no subtests	2.0	2.7	3.1	2.0	2.7	3.1

ELIGIBILITY FOR LIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Percent of	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarships at four-year institutions*	30.5	30.5
Seniors who met the SAT requirement	30.5	30.5
Seniors who met the grade point average	91.8	91.8

*Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

PACT PERFORMANCE BY GROUP

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	% Proficient and Advanced	State Objective
English/Language Arts								
All students	2,927	99.5	14.6	42.0	37.1	6.4	43.5	17.6
Gender								
Male	1,507	99.3	17.9	43.5	34.9	3.8	38.6	17.6
Female	1,420	99.7	11.1	40.4	39.4	9.1	48.5	17.6
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	2,517	99.4	11.7	41.5	39.7	7.1	46.9	17.6
African-American	290	100.0	39.0	44.9	14.6	1.6	16.1	17.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	45	100.0	4.7	44.2	51.2		51.2	17.6
Hispanic	66	98.5	37.5	44.6	16.1	1.8	17.9	17.6
American Indian/Alaskan	5	100.0						17.6
Disability Status								
Not disabled	2,629	99.8	11.6	42.0	39.4	7.0	46.4	17.6
Disabled	298	97.0	41.9	41.2	15.8	1.1	16.9	17.6
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						17.6
Non-migrant	2,927	99.5	14.6	42.0	37.1	6.4	43.5	17.6
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	23	100.0	61.9	33.3	4.8		4.8	17.6
Non-limited English proficient	2,904	99.5	14.1	42.0	37.4	6.4	43.9	17.6
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	487	99.2	36.1	45.2	18.3	0.5	18.8	17.6
Full-pay meals	2,440	99.5	10.7	41.4	40.4	7.4	47.9	17.6

Mathematics								
All students	2,927	99.8	11.2	40.2	26.3	22.4	48.7	15.5
Gender								
Male	1,507	99.8	11.3	36.6	27.7	24.4	52.1	15.5
Female	1,420	99.9	11.0	43.9	24.9	20.2	45.1	15.5
Racial/Ethnic Group								
White	2,517	99.8	8.2	39.5	27.7	24.6	52.3	15.5
African-American	290	100.0	35.0	46.5	13.8	4.7	18.5	15.5
Asian/Pacific Islander	45	100.0	2.3	37.2	27.9	32.6	60.5	15.5
Hispanic	66	100.0	32.8	44.8	20.7	1.7	22.4	15.5
American Indian/Alaskan	5	100.0						15.5
Disability Status								
Not disabled	2,629	99.9	8.5	39.7	27.9	23.8	51.7	15.5
Disabled	298	99.3	34.8	43.8	12.0	9.4	21.4	15.5
Migrant Status								
Migrant		0.0						15.5
Non-migrant	2,927	99.8	11.2	40.2	26.3	22.4	48.7	15.5
English Proficiency								
Limited English proficient	23	100.0	42.9	47.6	9.5		9.5	15.5
Non-limited English proficient	2,904	99.8	10.8	40.1	26.5	22.6	49.1	15.5
Socio-Economic Status								
Subsidized meals	487	100.0	30.2	49.0	16.7	4.0	20.7	15.5
Full-pay meals	2,440	99.8	7.7	38.6	28.0	25.7	53.7	15.5

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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PACT PERFORMANCE BY GRADE LEVEL

		Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced and Proficient
English/Language Arts							
2002	Grade 3	411		8.9	25.9	54.1	65.2
	Grade 4	440		10.4	36.6	46.5	53.0
	Grade 5	433		11.1	42.2	43.8	46.7
	Grade 6	449		15.3	34.9	38.0	49.9
	Grade 7	459		10.4	44.9	39.2	44.7
	Grade 8	415		14.3	40.7	35.4	45.0
2003	Grade 3	456	99.6	8.4	23.7	51.9	67.9
	Grade 4	477	99.0	10.1	40.5	45.0	49.3
	Grade 5	492	100.0	13.3	47.1	37.3	39.7
	Grade 6	500	99.4	20.8	36.9	34.0	42.3
	Grade 7	490	99.8	16.7	48.9	31.1	34.3
	Grade 8	512	99.2	17.3	53.0	25.1	29.6
Mathematics							
2002	Grade 3	411		10.8	38.2	26.6	51.0
	Grade 4	440		10.6	28.4	29.8	61.0
	Grade 5	433		13.3	39.3	27.0	47.4
	Grade 6	449		14.1	35.5	28.2	50.3
	Grade 7	459		19.7	29.2	24.3	51.1
	Grade 8	415		15.7	39.7	21.1	44.6
2003	Grade 3	456	99.8	9.0	39.4	29.9	51.6
	Grade 4	477	99.6	5.4	36.7	27.7	57.9
	Grade 5	492	100.0	12.2	42.0	30.3	45.8
	Grade 6	500	100.0	12.5	31.7	28.3	55.8
	Grade 7	490	100.0	15.0	40.8	18.2	44.3
	Grade 8	512	99.6	12.5	50.0	23.8	37.5

STATE PERFORMANCE ON NATIONAL TESTS

Terra Nova: a national, norm-referenced achievement test.

Percentage of students scoring in the upper half, 2002								
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total	
	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
3	49.2	50.0	51.5	50.0	58.2	50.0	54.8	50.0
6	57.6	50.0	49.0	50.0	51.2	50.0	51.4	50.0
9*	56.1	50.0	46.8	50.0	51.6	50.0	51.2	50.0

* Grade 9 estimates were based on a sample that may not be representative of the entire 9th grade population.

National Assessment of Educational Progress: a national, criterion-referenced achievement test.

Percent of students scoring										
Test	Grade	Year	Advanced		Proficient		Basic		Below Basic	
			State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation	State	Nation
Reading	8	2002	1	3	23	30	44	43	32	25
Writing	4	2002	1	2	16	26	65	58	18	14
Mathematics	8	2000	2	5	15	22	37	38	45	34

PERFORMANCE BY STUDENT GROUPS

	Exit Exam Passage Rate by Spring 2003		Eligibility for LIFE Scholarships*		Graduation Rate	
	n	%	n	%	n	%
All Students	335	98.5%	354	30.5%	355	92.4%
Gender						
Male	163	98.2%	180	31.7%	180	90.6%
Female	172	98.8%	174	29.3%	175	94.3%
Race or Ethnic Group						
African American	27	96.3%	30	6.7%	30	86.7%
Hispanic	1	I/S	3	I/S	3	I/S
White	299	99.0%	314	32.2%	316	92.7%
Other	8	87.5%	7	71.4%	6	100.0%
Disability Status						
Non-speech disabilities	N/A	N/A	19	0.0%	19	47.4%
Students without disabilities	335	98.5%	335	32.2%	0	94.9%
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Non-migrant	N/A	N/A	354	30.5%	0	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English proficient	3	I/S	0	N/A	2	I/S
Non-LEP	327	98.8%	354	30.5%	353	92.9%
Lunch Status						
Subsidized meals	18	100.0%	21	0.0%	28	67.9%
Full-pay meals	312	98.4%	333	32.4%	327	94.5%

* Using only the SAT and grade point average requirements

n = number of students on which percentage is calculated

2002-2003 COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTS

SAT	Verbal		Math		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	523	522	543	537	1066	1059
State	488	493	493	496	981	989
Nation	504	507	516	519	1020	1026

ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003	2002	2003
District	22.2	19.8	22.2	20.5	22.1	20.9	23.5	20.4	22.6	20.5
State	18.8	18.7	19.1	19.0	19.3	19.4	19.2	19.2	19.2	19.2
Nation	20.2	20.3	20.6	20.6	21.1	21.2	20.8	20.8	20.8	20.8

SCHOOLS IN "SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT STATUS"

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n= 5,857)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Retention rate	2.3%	Down from 2.4%	2.3%	4.0%
Attendance rate	97.3%	Down from 97.9%	97.3%	95.4%
Meeting grade 1 & 2 readiness standards	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Eligible for gifted and talented	32.3%	Up from 30.7%	32.3%	10.7%
On academic plans	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
On academic probation	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With disabilities other than speech	5.4%	Down from 5.6%	5.4%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	1.7%	Down from 1.8%	1.7%	5.5%
Suspended or expelled	0.8%	Up from 0.5%	0.8%	1.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	15.8%	N/A	N/A	10.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	83	Down from 286	83	186
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	16	Up from 8	16	40

Teachers (n= 384)

Teachers with advanced degrees	53.4%	Up from 53.2%	53.4%	47.8%
Continuing contract teachers	88.5%	Up from 85.2%	88.5%	82.8%
Highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Teachers returning from previous year	91.6%	Down from 92.3%	91.6%	89.5%
Teacher attendance rate	95.6%	Up from 95.0%	95.6%	95.1%
Average teacher salary	\$40,785	Up 0.9%	\$40,785	\$39,707
Prof. development days/teacher	12.2 days	Up from 11.9 days	12.2 days	11.3 days

District

Superintendent's years at district	6.0	Up from 5.0	6.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio	21.1 to 1	Up from 18.8 to 1	21.1 to 1	20.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	91.4%	Up from 90.9%	91.4%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,011	Up 6.0%	\$7,011	\$7,412
Percent spent on teacher salaries*	57.3%	Up from 56.1%	57.3%	56.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	Up from 97.0%	99.0%	96.1%
Number of schools	8	No change	8	8
Number of magnet schools	0	No change	0	0
Number of charter schools	0	No change	0	0
Portable classrooms	0.4%	Down from 0.5%	0.4%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facility	11	N/A	11	26
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	8	N/A	8	8

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

	Our District	State
Highly qualified teachers in low poverty schools	N/A	N/A
Highly qualified teachers in high poverty schools	N/A	N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A	Not Applicable	N/C	Not Collected	N/R	Not Reported	I/S	Insufficient Sample
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SCHOOL DISTRICT GOVERNANCE

Board Membership

7 trustees elected to at-large seats

Fiscal Authority

District Board/Referendum

Average Number of Hours of Training Annually

30.0 per board member

Percent new trustees completing orientation

100.0%

DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Enrollment growth, more budget cutbacks, building expansion and improved student achievement are the benchmarks we will use to evaluate the 2002-03 school year. By virtually all measures, the district met these challenges.

The year began with the opening of the new technology wing at Fort Mill High School. Registration records show these new courses, in such subjects as Early Childhood Development, Commercial Design, Computer Assisted Drafting and Health Care served more than 700 students. The district also successfully completed additions at both middle schools, creating room for 150 additional students at each location. The new classrooms opened even as enrollment projections for the 2002-03 school year were revised to show more growth than expected. Fort Mill School District #4 continues to lead the state in student enrollment growth.

Construction then began mid-year at Gold Hill Elementary, which is being expanded to accommodate 900 students, the same capacity as all other elementary schools in the district.

Even as our building program met its goals, the district struggled with its efforts to adequately fund school operations. A reduction in state funding made it impossible to provide more than \$2 million in needed improvements and once again forced the district to reduce travel, equipment and supply budgets. That was followed by two mid-year budget cuts of more than \$1.2 million. The impact of those cuts could have been much worse, if Trustees had not anticipated most of the loss when they approved the 2002-03 budget.

Student performance continued to show improvement, despite the challenges. For the second year in a row, FMSD was recognized as an "Excellent" district on the state Report Card. An independent study of student performance, commissioned by the Board of Trustees, showed that Fort Mill students were performing on par with students from the best schools in the nation. Our high school Mock Trial, SAT, Academic and Model UN teams were consistently among the best in the state, while the high school Percussion Ensemble was honored as the best in the nation.

However, all these accomplishments are threatened by a continual decline in financial support at the state level. We are ever more thankful for the devoted residents of Fort Mill township, who have accepted the challenge of putting "Children First."

TEC Dowling, Superintendent

DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent - District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good - District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average - District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average - District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Unsatisfactory - District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

